

**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**1400 Independence Avenue,**  
**S.W. # Room 3522**  
**Mailstop Code 0256**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

#### **Information**

**Description:** AG-FFVG-S-13-0145  
**Bid invitation number:** 2000001997  
**Purchasing Group:** AMS-Fruit and Veg

## **SOLICITATION**

### **Domestic Commodity Invitation**

#### **Bid invitation Overview**

**Bid Timezone:** Central Time  
**Start Date:** 08/15/2013 14:00:00  
**Offer Due Date :** 08/29/2013 13:00:00

**Opening date:** 08/29/2013 13:00:00

**Invitation Type :** Definite Delivery

#### **Additional requested information:**

#### **Tendering text :**

FRESH VEGETABLES, SOLICITATION NO.: 2000001997

Please read this solicitation for bid carefully.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell fresh vegetables pursuant to the AMS Master Solicitation for use in the National School Lunch Program and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, September 9, 2013. Deliveries are to be made between November 18, 2013 and March 26, 2014.

Vendors or subcontractors who are supplying fresh fruit are required to undergo the USDA AMS FVP Fresh Products Branch Good Handling Practices (GHP) certifications process, and must score at least 80% on EACH of the following element: House Packing; Storage and Transportation; and Traceback.

In addition to the GHP, vendor or subcontractors/suppliers are also required to undergo the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification process. This requirement must be met prior to bid opening. Brokers are exempt from this requirement.

The Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program can be accessed at the following website:  
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm>

In order to verify that the contractor is in compliance with GAP/GHP certification, contractors shall meet the following requirements:

1) Contractors are required to:

a. Submit a list of all certified GAP/GHP suppliers to be used in the performance of the contract with their bid, including a copy of each supplier's certification. Certifications must be uploaded with their bids in WBSCM;

b. Contact USDA/AMS after contract award to request that additional GAP/GHP certified suppliers be added to the approved list on the purchase order and include a copy of each suppliers certification;

c. Each delivery shall include a copy of the GAP/GHP certificate for any contractor's suppliers, which will be notated at the time of inspection; and

d. Submit a copy of the GAP/GHP certifications with each invoice submitted for all suppliers used that are not on the approved list.

2) Any shipment delivered to a destination identified on the contract/purchase order without the required GAP/GHP certifications for the suppliers used, will be noted on the inspection certificates and may either be accepted or rejected by the recipients.

**SOLICITATION**  
**Domestic Commodity Invitation**

**Information**

Description: **AG-FFVG-S-13-0145**  
 Bid invitation number: **2000001997**

3) Invoices received by USDA/AMS for products received from suppliers that are not on the approved supplier list must include copies of the GAP/GHP certifications. If the GAP/GHP certifications are not supplied, the invoice will be rejected by USDA/AMS and must be resubmitted by the contractor with the appropriate documentation.

If USDA/AMS finds that suppliers used by the contractor are not in compliance with AMS GAP/GHP certification requirements after the product is delivered, the following courses of action will apply:

1. The first time non compliance occurs AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries.
2. The second time non compliance occurs:
  - a. USDA/AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries;
  - b. The contract will be terminated for default; and
  - c. The contractor will be suspended from participating in all future USDA/AMS fresh fruit and vegetable solicitations for a period of one (1) year from the date of contract termination.

Contractors or subcontractors who are supplying fresh baby carrots are required to provide proof that they are slotted at the distributor prior to bid opening. This can be in the form of a recently paid invoice from the distributor or a letter signed by the distributor acknowledging that the distributor is already, or willing to do business with the contractor or subcontractor. See attachments for Distributor Information.

The awarded contractor and the distributor will be responsible for handling any issues related to condition of the product prior to delivery to the school. However, when the destination is the State or State- contracted warehouse, it is only the contractor's responsibility for issues related to condition of the product.

Destinations that are direct shipments to State or State-contracted warehouses are indicated by (\*\*).

Contractors and distributors are responsible for determining how the value of fresh cut carrots distributed to the schools, so the schools are not charged the amount paid by USDA.

The Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program can be accessed at the following website:  
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm>

Purchases will be made on an f.o.b. destination basis to cities on this Solicitation. Destination quantities listed are estimates and subject to adjustment based on offerings, changes in recipient needs, market conditions, and program operations.

All prime vendors are reminded that they are prohibited from subcontracting with companies or individuals that have been suspended or debarred.

Offers must be submitted electronically via the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM). Offers submitted by any means other than WBSCM will be deemed nonresponsive. Offerors must be active in WBSCM and have the required bidder roles in order to submit offers under this Solicitation. Once connected, follow the

**SOLICITATION**  
**Domestic Commodity Invitation**

**Information**

Description: **AG-FFVG-S-13-0145**  
 Bid invitation number: **2000001997**

online procedures. A "HELP" button provides detailed instructions or call (202) 720-4517 for assistance.

Offerors are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver. Inquiries about the Master Solicitation dated April 2013; Commodity Specification for Fresh Vegetables dated August 2012, as amended; or this Solicitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer; USDA, AMS, Room 3522-South; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-0239. Telephone: (202) 720-4517. FAX: (202) 720-2782.

-----  
 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

**See attached documents:**

- 1 . AMS Master Solicitation April 2013
- 2 . Fresh Vegetable Specification August 2012
- 3 . Fresh Vegetable Specification Amendment No 1 August 2012
- 4 . Distributor Information Baby Carrots

**Attributes :**

OFFEROR CERTIFIES THAT THE OFFER IS MADE SUBJECT TO THE MASTER SOLICITATION; COMMODITY SUPPLEMENT AND/OR SPECIFICATION(S); THIS SOLICITATION; THE AGRICULTURE ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (AGAR) AND THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (FAR).

**SOLICITATION**  
**Domestic Commodity Invitation**
**Information**

Description: **AG-FFVG-S-13-0145**  
 Bid invitation number: **2000001997**

TIMELY PERFORMANCE: OFFEROR AND ANY SUBCONTRACTOR HAVE COMPLETED REQUIRED PERFORMANCE OF ANY USDA CONTRACT PRIOR TO THIS BID OPENING.

- Permitted values:
- Have
  - Have not
  - Have not, but the Offeror has notified the Contracting Officer
  - There are no existing contracts/purchase orders

OFFEROR REQUESTS HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS PRICE EVALUATION PREFERENCE. APPLIES ONLY TO FIRMS CERTIFIED IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S HUBZONE PROGRAM (FAR SUBPART 19.13). MUST BE THE MANUFACTURER/PRODUCER OF THE PRODUCT TO RECEIVE A PRICE PREFERENCE

FURNISH NAME, TITLE, PHONE NUMBER, FAX NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF PERSON SUBMITTING THIS BID (MUST BE AN OFFICER OF THE COMPANY OR A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS ON BEHALF OF THE BIDDER).

IS THE OFFEROR AN ENTITY THAT HAS FILED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION IN ONE OF THE FIFTY STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR THE VARIOUS TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES? YOU MUST ANSWER THE NEXT 3 QUESTIONS IF THE ANSWER FOR THIS QUESTION IS YES.

HAS THE OFFEROR BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

HAS THE OFFEROR HAD ANY OFFICER OR AGENT OF OFFEROR CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION FOR ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF OFFEROR UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

DOES THE OFFEROR HAVE ANY UNPAID FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY ASSESSED, WHICH ALL JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED/LAPSED, THAT IS NOT BEING PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING IT?

Offeror acknowledges receipt of the amendment(s) to the solicitation. Select N/A if no amendment was issued to the solicitation.

- Permitted values:
- Yes
  - No
  - N/A

**Bid invitation Item details**

	Item	Material	Description	Required by	ZipCode	Quantity	
10	VEGETABLE,	FRESH					
20	CARROTS	FRESH	BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ				
30	PICO	RIVERA	CA				
40	100982	CARROTS	FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2	11/18/2013-11/20/2013	90660	2,070	CS

**SOLICITATION**  
**Domestic Commodity Invitation**

**Information**

Description: **AG-FFVG-S-13-0145**  
 Bid invitation number: **2000001997**

Item	Material	Description	Required by	ZipCode	Quantity	
		OZ				
50	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	12/16/2013-12/18/2013	90660	2,070	CS
60	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	01/20/2014-01/22/2014	90660	2,070	CS
70	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	03/24/2014-03/26/2014	90660	2,070	CS
<b>80 LOT: 4847363738 BOWLING GREEN KY / OW...</b>						
<b>Tendering text : LOT: 4847363738 BOWLING GREEN KY / OWENSBORO KY / SHEPERDSVILLE KY /</b>						
90	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	02/24/2014-02/26/2014	42102	700	CS
100	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	02/24/2014-02/26/2014	42301	580	CS
110	100982	CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ	02/24/2014-02/26/2014	40165	790	CS
<b>Total Quantity for CARROTS FRESH BABY CUTS BAG-100/2 OZ</b>					<b>10,350</b>	<b>CS</b>
<b>Total Quantity for Invitation</b>					<b>10,350</b>	<b>CS</b>



Contracting Officer  
 Commodity Procurement Division  
 United States Department of Agriculture